Today's The Herald-Palladium included inside

Brandywine girls, Buchanan boys win D3 track titles
Page B1

Stay Safe

Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts - if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

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Dowagiac News

Established 1897 • Serving Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and Cassopolis | MAY 16, 2026 | leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium | $4

House of David Museum to relocate to Dowagiac

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ST. JOSEPH — The House of David Museum has found a new home in the Grand Old City.

The museum, which houses thousands of artifacts from the religious commune founded in Benton Harbor more than a century ago, is relocating from 922 Main St. in St. Joseph to 100 La Grange St., Dowagiac.

House of David Museum founder Chris Siriano opened his first House of David Museum in Riverside in 1997. After several moves the museum opened at its current location in St. Joseph 10 years ago. Siriano said he has been searching for a more spacious location to house his collection of artifacts, which include vintage amusement park rides, statues, apparel, thousands of vintage photographs and more.

"It's not nearly big enough," he said. "We've been riding the storm since then, but I wanted a lot more parking, hopefully everything on one level and a community that embraces history and museums. Dowagiac knocks on the door pretty loud with all the history and the museums already there."

See **MUSEUM**, page A6

Don Campbell / PMG staff

Thousands of historical items from the House of David are on display at Chris Siriano's House of David Museum in St. Joseph.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Zabrina Shivers and Hanah McCuddy were among several seniors who received accolades Wednesday during the school's 68th annual Honors Program.

Seniors awarded $1.1M in scholarships

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Dowagiac Union High School seniors and their families filled the middle school's performing arts center Wednesday night to be recognized for their academic ventures with awards and scholarships during the school's 68th annual Honors Program.

In total, Dowagiac seniors were awarded $1,140,624 in scholarship funds. The awards and scholarships were presented to the following students:

■ Valedictorian: Bryanna Behnke.

■ Salutatorian: Johannah McDonald.

■ High honors graduates: Bryanna Behnke, Kameron Holmes, Johannah McDonald, Ava Nate, Andres Brito, Artie Ruiz, Navarrah Hemminger, Sharey Cruz, Hanah McCuddy, Addison Wilson, Keegan Franklin, Samantha Freshour, Tessa Deering, Austin Thunell, Mya Vazquez, Kylie Lynch, Riley de Varona, Cameron White, Olivia Stockwell, Zabrina Shivers, Jaden Kusch, Jocelyn Kiner, Justin Feirick, Marlie Carpenter.

■ Honors graduates: Isabella Razo, Haley Henry, Grace McCarthy, Timothy Masterman, Alexandria Edwards, Riley Todd, Reanna Pompey, Quentin Hill, Sebastian Miranda,, Tatum Richter, Dakota Higgins, Angel Mancera Perez, Sage Gordon, Elijah Frazier, Isaiah Weatherspoon, Samantha

See **SCHOLARSHIPS**, page A3

Fitz resigns as Cass County prosecutor

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz announced Monday that he is resigning from his position, effective May 19.

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve with the men and women of law enforcement – as well as many other determined partners – who, daily promote justice and the protection of our community," Fitz stated in his resignation letter. "In particular, I wish to acknowledge and thank my office staff, both past and present, for their selfless dedication to our mission. It has always been our objective to aggressively further public safety, justice and the protection of crime victims."

FITZ

Fitz's announcement follows the resignation of Chief Assistant Mary Foster, who submitted her letter of resignation April 30.

Fitz has served as the Cass County Prosecutor since May 19, 2003. He was elected to this position by the citizens of his community in 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 and previously served in Muskegon (1988-2003), Tuscola (1983-1988) and St. Clair (1982) Counties. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Valparaiso University.

Over the course of his 38-year career, Fitz has served as Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Homicide Prosecutor, Senior Assistant in Charge – Narcotics Prosecutions, Circuit Court Trial Attorney, Community Prosecutor, Firearms Prosecutor, Grand Jury Assignment and Family Court Prosecutor.

His vocation has placed him in the midst of more than 100 homicide investigations/prosecutions. He has also handled life penalty jury trials, including numerous sex offenses and armed robbery crimes.

During the past decade, Fitz has teamed with law enforcement on four separate occasions to pass a county-wide Anti-Drug Millage, which aims to stem the methamphetamine tide in southwest Michigan.

Fitz has earned several awards and distinctions over the years, including:

■ Past President, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

■ Michigan State Police Professional Excellence Award – Cass County Cold Case Murder Conviction

■ Criminal Case of the Year Award – Abduction and Criminal Sexual Conduct Crime – United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan

■ Chair, Crime Victim Services Commission

■ Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Award for Outstanding Contributions

■ Michigan State Police Director – Citation for Professional Excellence – Narcotics Prosecutions

■ Vice Chair, Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission

Following Fitz's resignation, the Cass County Courts have published an informational job posting online to support the search for an appointee to fill the remainder of Fitz's term. The posting is available on the Cass County Courts' website at casscourtsmi.org/employment-opportunities/.

The posting provides details on the minimum qualifications required for the role, the general duties of the Prosecuting Attorney, the application process, and information about living and working in Cass County. If qualified applications are received, the first round of in-person interviews is expected to occur in July 2026. The posting will remain open, and application materials will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Circuit Court Administrator Sarah Mathews at sarahm@cassco.org.

Cass County Circuit Judge Mark A. Herman will appoint the next Cass County Prosecuting Attorney. The appointment will be made to ensure

See **FITZ**, page A6

Chamber hosts ribbon-tying ceremonies for two new businesses

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A pair of Dowagiac businesses that recently opened their doors were able to celebrate with the community last week.

The Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce hosted "ribbon tying" ceremonies for Dowagiac Liquidation, 105 Beeson St., and Banana Tree Cafe, 107 Beeson St., Friday, May 8 to officially welcome the businesses to the community. Instead of a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony, Soenen and the chamber used a ribbon tying ceremony to signify the businesses and the community coming together as one.

Dowagiac Liquidation is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The celebration was a welcome one for owners McKenzie and Derek Collins, who began reselling last summer out of their driveway using their Facebook group to feature items. Today, their Facebook group has more than 3,200 members.

"We have been able to purchase pallets that have items from Walmart, Target, Amazon, sometimes TJ Maxx, and HomeGoods," McKenzie said. "Sometimes we have clothing. Last summer, I sold a lot of bathing suits, all brand new and packaged. We'll have appliances, furniture, toys and more."

Since opening on Beeson Street in January, McKenzie said the community response has been "amazing."

"We've been so welcome since we opened in January," she said. "There's just been so many people. We already have regulars and

See **RIBBON-TYING**, page A3

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Matt Money and Kris Soenen of the Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce pose with Dowagiac Liquidation owners Derek and McKenzie Collins.

Today's obituaries • Page A3

David L. Buck Jr. | Ruth M. Huff | Dianne M. Russ
Edward Green | Charles William Keeton

Inside today's Herald-Palladium

Automotive	C6	Focus	B1	Opinion	A6
Business	C4	Food	B7	Puzzles	A5
Comics	D2	Home & Garden	C7	Television	D3

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FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly?
It is where readers sound off on issues of the day.
Have a tip or a quip?
Call 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Congratulations Northside Legacy & Wellness Community Center for breathing life back into that building. It shows that Niles' north side is worth investing in.

■ The Leader Cup is a wonderful tribute to Scott.

■ I'm glad to see Dowagiac working on developing South Front Street but the detour signs are too confusing for visitors. Front Street is not closed, please come and support our small businesses.

■ Congratulations to our newest SMC graduates. Well done!

■ Blossomtime is such a wonderful event for our area. Great to see the communities represented in the parade.

■ We can spend billions to kill and destroy but apparently we can't use it to medicate, educate, house and feed people.

■ Congratulations to the Brandywine girls and Buchanan boys track teams for winning regional titles. We have some speed down here.

■ $1.1 million in scholarships earned by our Chieftains this year. Isn't that incredible?

WEEKEND WEATHER

Saturday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. South wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

SMC graduates Class of 2026

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — With the sun shining high in the sky and breezes whipping in through Alumni Plaza, families and friends of the graduating Class of 2026 gathered in anticipation of their student's commencement at Southwestern Michigan College on Saturday, May 9.

Board of Trustees Chair Tom Jerdon opened the ceremony with an introductory speech and President and CEO Dr. Klint Pleasant congratulated the graduates on their special day.

"The power of education, in my opinion, is the realization that perhaps you now know just a little bit more about all the things that you still don't know. So that must mean that your education really is a journey. That it really is a process," Pleasant said. "But too often, we view this ceremony as the end, the accomplishment, the completion of something, the Finish Line. But can I close with the general reminder that commencement actually represents something new – a beginning, rather a starting line. Your pursuit of being a lifelong learner."

Class Speakers Chloe Itimu, Kaylee Bradshaw and Cole Kilboy delivered on what were their final assignments as SMC students and looked back on their time as Roadrunners.

"[Graduation] is not a sign that something has come to an end but a sign that growth continues," Itimu said. "So wherever we go, let us carry what we learned here. Let us carry the memories and the lessons. Let us remember that growth is not linear; It does not follow a perfect timeline but it is always happening. We are capable. We are worthy. And we are graduates."

Photos by Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

SMC graduate Liz Van De Putte poses with Dr. Klint Pleasant during SMC's 59th commencement ceremony.

M-51 repairs are set to begin on May 18

By PMG STAFF

KALAMAZOO — Work will soon begin on a stretch of road in Howard and Pokagon Townships.

The Michigan Department of Transportation will be repairing M-51 between White Street in Howard Township and Crystal Springs Street in Pokagon Township.

The $2.8 million investment – scheduled to begin May 18 and conclude July 10 – includes asphalt shoulder widening, curve warning signs, center rumble strips and guardrail upgrades.

During construction, one lane of traffic will be maintained with traffic regulators. The project is expected to directly and indirectly support 24 jobs.

Work on U.S. 12 shoulder near Edwardsburg will begin on May 18

By PMG STAFF

KALAMAZOO — Next week, the Michigan Department of Transportation will be widening U.S. 12 shoulders between South Shore Drive and 5 Points Road in Ontwa Township.

The $2.7 million investment will begin May 18 and is expected to be completed by May 24. The project will include 4.7 miles of hot-mix asphalt and aggregate shoulders, corrugations and pavement markings. Drivers can expect to see single-lane closures with traffic regulators.

According to MDOT, the investment is expected to directly and indirectly support 23 jobs.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

From page A1

Hernandez, Aliayah Huddleston, Cole Wimberley.

■ Academic Award of Excellence: Bryanna Behnke, Andres Brito, Johannah McDonald, Navarrah Hemminger, Hanah McCuddy, Keegan Franklin, Tessa Deering, Riley de Varona.

■ Early Middle College Participants: Navarrah Hemminger, Samantha Hernandez.

■ Van Buren Tech Student of the Year Scholarship: Elizabeth Shaer.

■ SMC Dual Enrollment High Honors Award: Bryanna Behnke, Marlie Carpenter, Riley de Varona, Tessa Deering, Keegan Franklin, Haley Henry, Amara Irvin, Jocelyn Kiner, Jaden Kusch, Hanah McCuddy, Johannah McDonald, Ava Nate, Riley Todd, Addison Wilson.

■ Cass County 4-H Leaders Association Senior Scholarship: Johannah McDonald, Olivia Stockwell.

■ Good Luck Ad Scholarship and Lake Shore Masonic Lodge No. 298 Community Service Scholarship Award: Keegan Franklin.

■ Burger King Scholars Scholarship: Addison Wilson.

■ Carson Ausra Memorial Scholarship: Olivia Stockwell, Mya Vazquez.

■ Cass County Mental Health Foundation Scholarship: Riley de Varona, Devin Rock.

■ Cass County Sheriff's Community Scholarship: Bryanna Behnke, Johannah McDonald, Addison Wilson.

■ Chris Taylor Memorial Scholarship: Cameron White.

■ Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Scholarship: Timothy Masterman.

■ Chieftain Golf Outing Scholarship: Bryanna Behnke, Johannah McDonald, Andres Brito, Ava Nate, Marlie Carpenter, Riley Todd, Riley de Varona, Cameron White, Haley Henry, Addison Wilson.

■ Athletic Boosters Scholarship: Bryanna Behnke, Marlie Carpenter, Andres Brito, Cameron White.

■ Dowagiac Education Association Scholarship: Bryanna Behnke, Johannah McDonald.

■ Dowagiac Elks Club Scholarship: Bryanna Behnke, Marlie Carpenter, Kameron Holmes.

■ Dowagiac Elks Trade Scholarship: Marcus Keller, Isaiah Weatherspoon.

■ Dowagiac Masonic Lodge Scholarship: Addison Wilson.

■ Dowagiac Rotary Club/SMC Matching Scholarship: Zabrina Shivers.

■ Berrybrook Enterprise Scholarship: Skyler Vincek.

■ Hassle Family Scholarship: Hanah McCuddy.

■ Harold-Palladium Academic All-Star: Bryanna Behnke.

■ Jim and Mary Alice Giles Memorial Scholarship: Marlie Carpenter, Hanah McCuddy.

■ Knights of Columbus Scholarship: Addison Wilson.

■ LADD Schola: Hanah McCuddy.

■ Landen Taggart Scholarship for Dreamers: Elijah Frazier, Amara Irvin, Itzarely Aguilar-Ruvalcaba.

■ Michigan Career Placement Association Scholarship: Elena Murray.

■ MEC Scholarship: Olivia Stockwell.

■ Miss Dowagiac Scholarship: Mya Vazquez, Johannah McDonald, Haley Henry, Aalyiah Northrop, Bryanna Behnke, Dakota Higgins.

■ Miss Eau Claire/Sodus/Dowagiac Scholarship: Alexis Campbell, Keegan Franklin.

■ Ronda L. Lucas Sullivan Legacy Foundation Scholarship: Devin Rock, Addison Wilson.

■ Shurte Family Memorial Fund Scholarship: Olivia Stockwell.

■ Sodexo Services Scholarship: Marlie Carpenter, Haley Henry, Cameron White, Addison Wilson.

■ Cleveland Family Hope of Light Scholarship: Riley de Varona, Haley Henry.

■ Theta Mu Sherrie File Memorial Scholarship: Bryanna Behnke.

■ Town and Country Garden Club Scholarship: Jocelyn Kiner.

■ Crandall Scholar Award: Addison Wilson, Halley Henry, Keegan Franklin.

■ SMC Roadrunner Scholarships: Alexandria Edwards, Hannah Gnodtke, Jeremiah Hargreaves, Hanah McCuddy, Sebastian Miranda, Elena Murray, Tatum Ricther, Isiah Weatherspoon.

■ SMC Award of Excellence Scholarships: Andres Brito, Sharey Cruz, Samantha Freshour, Jocelyn Kiner, Artie Ruiz, Zabrina Shivers.

■ Laker Lane Scholarship: Haley Henry, Bryanna Behnke, Ava Nate, Addison Wilson.

■ Grand Valley Award of Excellence: Bryanna Behnke, Ava Nate, Addison Wilson.

■ Grand Valley Grant: Ava Nate, Addison Wilson.

■ Thompson Working Family Scholarship: Ava Nate, Addison Wilson.

■ Michigan Tech University Scholar Commend Finalist Award: Kameron Holmes.

■ Michigan Tech University Presidential Copper Scholar Award: Kameron Holmes.

■ CMU Maroon and Gold Merit Recognition Scholarship: Keegan Franklin.

■ Ferris State Merit Grant: Skyler Vincek.

■ Ferris Forward Scholarship: Skyler Vincek.

■ Goshen College High Honors Academic Scholarship: Johannah McDonald.

■ Goshen College Achievement Scholarship: Johannah McDonald.

■ Kalamazoo College Lux Esto Scholarship: Quentin Hill.

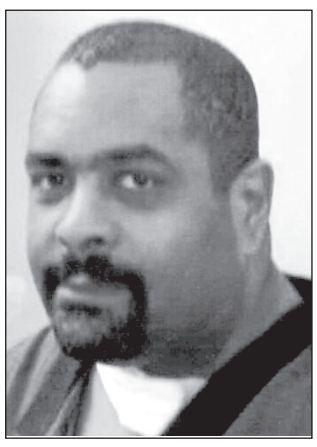
■ Kalamazoo College Kalamazoo Grant: Quentin Hill.

■ United States Army: Aaron Hafer.

OBITUARIES

David L. Buck, Jr.

July 7, 1965 – May 11, 2026



David Leslie Buck, Jr. 60, of Three Rivers, went dancing with Jesus, Monday, May 11, 2026, in the comfort of his wife's presence.

His life began July 7, 1965, in Dowagiac, Michigan the eldest of four children born to David, Sr. and Barbara Buck. He married Debrah Blosser on Oct. 21, 2006, in Vandalia.

David was an avid Chicago Bears football fan, attending the 1985 Detroit Lions game against the Bears. He loved to fish. David was very involved in his family and taking care of them. He enjoyed weight training in his youth. David was proud in his work as a welder. He loved to laugh and joke with everyone.

David will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife Debrah Buck, whom he was with for a total of 35 years, of Three Rivers, his father, David Leslie Buck, Sr., one daughter, Chyvon (Justin) Lee of Cassopolis, two step-daughters, Erin Blosser of Sturgis, Kirstin (Raymond) Pifer of Centreville, one step-son, Justin Blosser of St, Augustine, Florida, two granddaughters, Natalie and Alivia and three step-granddaughters, LaKotah, Zoey, and Rebecca , three step-grandsons, Nathan, Zak, and Aiden, one sister, Tanya (Mike) Bonds of Elkhart, one brother, Shawn (Loretta) Buck of Vandalia and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, and his brother Rodney.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, May 23 from 1 p.m. until time of service at 2 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of David be made to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 N Broadway St., Cassopolis, MI 49031 to offset funeral expenses.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of David Leslie Buck, Jr., please visit the floral store.

Edward Green

Feb. 9, 1971 – May 7, 2026

Edward Green, 55, of Vandalia, died peacefully Thursday, May 7, 2026, in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began Feb. 9, 1971, in Tokyo, Japan, the first of three born to Bruce and Yoshiko Green.

Eddy graduated from Ross Beatty High School in 1989, having played baseball and football. Eddy was an avid guitar player and loved music. He worked many years and was a well-liked cook at Kulesia's Restaurant in Vandalia. He attended Ferris State University and received his Associates degree from Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac. Eddy worked for Schneider Trucking, J&S Oil Company and later owned his own business E&O Trucking. He could often be found watching sports on TV and enjoyed going to Notre Dame football games with his Dad. He especially enjoyed spending time with his nephew, Oliver and niece, Sydney, attending many of their activities.

Eddy will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by parents, Bruce and Yoshiko Green of Vandalia, one sister, Natalie (Brian) Amos of Mishawaka; one brother, Tom Green of Vandalia; nephew, Oliver Amos and niece Sydney Amos. He was preceded in death by grandparents, William and Joyce Green and Tomio and Kimiko Okada.

Family and friends gathered Friday, May 15 from 4-6 p.m., in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Eddy will be laid to rest in Birch Lake Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Edward be made to Debra Organization of America is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) at Debra.org/donate They would also like to express a warm gratitude to Beacon Three Rivers Health, Homecare and Hospice, 711 S Health Park, Three Rivers, Michigan 49093 and Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital, 1234 Napier Ave., St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Ruth M. Huff

March 30, 1941 – May 11, 2026

Ruth M. Huff, 85, of Marcellus, died peacefully Monday May 11, 2026, in the comfort of her home.

Her life began March 30, 1941, at the Dukes-Miami County Memorial Hospital in Peru, Indiana. The second of four children born to James and Sadie (Cagley) Underwood. Ruth graduated from Danvers High School, Danvers, Illinois in 1958. She then became a beautician at the Vogue School of Beauty Culture in South Bend, Indiana. She moved to Marcellus, Michigan and lived with Floyd and Theresa Hertz, close family friends, until her marriage to Donald Lee Huff at 1961 in Volinia Baptist Church.

They eventually established their home in the Volinia area after living in Germany while Don served in the Army. She was a busy lady serving Volinia Baptist Church as Sunday School Secretary keeping attendance records, helping alongside Don with the youth group, while keeping up with her business as a beloved traveling beautician and an Avon lady. Later in life she worked at a business in Dowagiac, as a seamstress, making friends along the way.

She was always interested in her best friends' children's lives as well as her beloved nieces and nephews. She loved flowers in her garden and yard, especially her peonies and rose bush. She kept a close eye on feeding the birds and a few faithful farm cats that would visit her deck. Ruth was full of spunk and laughter and she loved a good joke. She loved the Lord and her church family and will be greatly missed by those who loved her.

She is survived by her sister Doris (Edward) Felgate, of Norfolk, Nebraska, sister-in-law Ethelyn Huff of Grand Rapids, Michigan and several nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Catherine Underwood, her brother Jim Underwood and her beloved husband of sixty-one years, Donald Huff.

Family and friends gathered Friday, May 15 from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m., in Volinia Baptist Church, 19526 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, Michigan. Ruth will be laid to rest in Crane Cemetery.

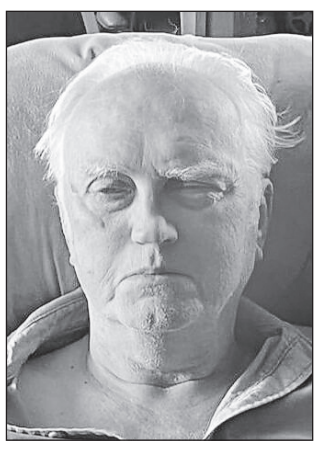
The family prefers contributions be made to, Volinia Baptist Church, 19526 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, Michigan 49045.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Ruth Huff, please visit our floral store.

Charles William Keeton

May 11, 1950 – May 4, 2026



Charles William Keeton, 75, of Niles died Monday, May 4, 2026.

His life began May 11, 1950, in South Bend, Indiana, the eldest of two children born to Albert and Doris Keeton.

Charles enjoyed NASCAR and was a big fan of jazz music. He would spend most of his time listening to his favorite jazz artist, Herb Alpert. Family was very important to Charles, including his two beloved dogs. He was an avid collector of small metal cars and trucks.

Charles will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his sister, Doris Turner of Marion, Indiana; three nieces, Bethany (Steve) Wachs of Granger, Indiana, Heather Sandlin of Marion, Indiana, Sandy (Jon) Thornhill of Marion, Indiana; and one great niece, Aubree Thornhill.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Share a memory or a message online: halbritter wickens.com.

Dianne Russ

Dianne M. Russ, 77, of Vandalia, died May 9, 2026, at Vandalia. Wagner Family Funerals, Cassopolis

Obituary policy

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $25, or free with obituary purchase. Extended obituaries are priced based on word count.

For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

RIBBON-TYING

From page A1

building connections with everybody has been a great part of it."

McKenzie thanked the community for its support, stating that expansion plans could be on the horizon.

"We're grateful to be even in a position to expand. Like I said, we started in our driveway last summer and started with our Facebook page, which is now at 3,200 people," she said. "To see the kind of growth and support from the community has been awesome."

Founded by Traci Jones, Banana Tree Cafe is open from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. The cafe offers a variety of breakfast and lunch options including omelettes, sandwiches, soups, pies and more.

"We try to make everything from scratch and put on new things all the time with fresh ingredients and fresh ideas," Jones said. "I think we're setting our own standards. We're authentic and real."

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Matt Money and Kris Soenen of the Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce pose with Banana Tree Cafe owner Traci Jones and Chef Calvin Bosworth.

The cafe is a dream come true for Jones, who was inspired at a young age by her mother to start her culinary journey.

"I started out watching my mom. I'm the youngest of ten, and she knew what she was doing,," she said. "My love for it started from there because my mom was magic in the kitchen. I saw how people loved her food and their reactions. I went to a culinary career center and from there, I've been in every position of a restaurant. That's how I learned everything."

"We try to make everything from scratch and put on new things all the time with fresh ingredients and fresh ideas. I think we're setting our own standards. We're authentic and real."

TRACI JONES
Founder, Banana Tree Cafe

Jones said the Banana Tree Cafe owes its name to her time living in Hawaii, where banana trees dot the landscape. For Jones, the banana tree represents her journey.

"The banana tree is very intriguing to me," she said. "When you harvest bananas, you chop the tree down. Within three months, there are bananas on it again. It's very cool to watch them grow because they have all those little bunches on them. I feel like a banana tree; I've been chopped down, but I keep on coming back. I keep on going. Haters are gonna hate, but that's just more blessings for me."

Jones has enjoyed living out her dream with her son, Calvin Bosworth, who serves as the head chef.

"Calvin's come a long way; he's worked at some really fine places. He's brought a lot to the table," she said. "He researches everything and watches all kinds of videos on how to make things. He really cooks with so much compassion and love. He loves the compliments; he actually comes out and waits on people."

While Banana Tree Cafe has been officially open for months, Jones has enjoyed the process and looks forward to growing with Dowagiac.

"Well, like everything, there are ups and downs, but I don't ever give up," she said. "Nothing's going to stop me; I'm just going to keep moving. It's been really good because we've had some really great people coming in here. We have regulars that are awesome to us, and people have some really nice things to say about us."

Visit SWMI to take over former UFCU building

By LAUREN RICE
Paxton Media Group

ST. JOSEPH — The former United Federal Credit Union building is now under contract with Visit Southwest Michigan to take over as the new occupants.

The building at 321 Main St. in downtown St. Joseph sits at the corner of Main and Broad streets across from city hall.

UFCU left the building at the end of March, listing it for sale in April. This week, the joint announcement came from UFCU and VSM.

"This building provides us with a multitude of opportunities," said Mike Nadolski, board president of Visit Southwest Michigan, in a news release. "We are excited to have such a central location in downtown St. Joseph and be part of the continued momentum and energy shaping the future of this community. This investment reflects our confidence in the region, our commitment to serving local residents and businesses, and our belief in the positive impact this project will have for decades to come."

According to the release, additional details about the building and long-term plans for the space will be shared following the closing process. It is expected to close later this summer, but the move-in timeline is still to be determined.

The building itself is about 19,000 square feet of space, with two floors and a basement. It includes a main lobby and offices on the first and second floors.

Visit Southwest Michigan Executive Director Marcy Simpson said the move represents an opportunity to build stronger connections.

"Our new space is the platform for our next chapter," she said. "With expanded facilities and a more accessible location within easy driving distance of both Stevensville and Benton Harbor, we will be better equipped to fulfill our mission and deepen our impact for years to come."

Don Campbell / HP file photo

Visit Southwest Michigan is under contract to buy the former United Federal Credit Union Building at 321 Main St. in downtown St. Joseph.

They are currently located at 2300 Pipestone Road in Benton Township. Simpson said they are outgrowing the space, and have been looking for a more conducive location for more than a year.

Some things will be brought over to the new space: maps, brochures, guides, recommended itineraries and a dedicated person to greet visitors and answer questions. Simpson said they're hoping to also provide more interactive components at the new location as well.

"We're hoping to possibly have some exhibits and things to see, and some small things to do as well," she said.

Outside the building, Simpson said it will be a stop for the trolley system, which is being brought back for a second year starting June 11.

Previously, there had been plans to add a visitor center at 3151 Niles Road, the former Nye's Apple Barn property in St. Joseph Township right off I-94. Simpson said the available space there ultimately didn't line up with their timetable, and there were several questions that remained unanswered.

"In the best interest of the organization, we determined that it was time to shift our strategy," she said. "... I wish him well, I think it could be an amazing development."

This marks another big change for the tourism bureau, which rebranded its name from the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council to Visit Southwest Michigan last year to "better align with its mission of welcoming tourists."

According to previous HP reporting, UFCU left the building on Main Street to consolidate with another downtown location at 2819 S. State St. At that point, United's Director of Public Relations Matthew Orlando said the intent was to continue meeting member needs.

"We regularly evaluate how our members use our services," he said. "We try to align with any changing preferences they may have. We're seeing, as most do, the increase to choose digital, mobile, on-the-go banking options. Some people still really enjoy their in-person branch experiences, but as we evaluate each branch, we try to think about where's the best value there."

Contact: lrice@TheHP.com, 932-0360

Berrien County Health Department earns accreditation

By JULIE SWIDWA
Paxton Media Group

ST. JOSEPH — The Berrien County Health Department has received an accreditation award from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and a framed certificate during last week's Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Laura de la Rambelge, director of the MDHHS's division of local health services, presented the award and spoke highly of the local department's dedication and accomplishments over the past three years.

She said local health departments are expected to continually and diligently work to prevent disease, prolong life and promote public health through organized programs. These programs include prevention and control of environmental health hazards, prevention and control of disease, prevention and control of health problems among particularly vulnerable population groups like poor and elderly, development of health care facilities and service delivery systems based on the Michigan Public Health Law.

Michigan's Local Public Health Accreditation program has been in existence since 1997 to check for compliance with standards across 11 programs. The standards are developed jointly between state agencies and local health departments to ensure programs and personnel are in place to provide efficient and effective services for residents across the state, de la Rambelge said.

"The mission of the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program is to assure and enhance the quality of local public health in Michigan by identifying and promoting the implementation of public health standards for local public health departments and evaluating and accrediting local health departments on their ability to meet these standards," she said before presenting the award to Berrien County Health Officer Guy Miller. "Public health works every day to promote and protect the public's health and safety from various ongoing threats."

This includes developing health education and promotion programs in partnership with community organizations.

Berrien County has many of these programs as staff works to increase community awareness of public health issues, de la Rambelge said.

For example, in response to Berrien County's teen pregnancy rate, BCHD partnered with MDHHS to offer the Michigan Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program. MI-APPP has a specific program for young fathers called Son to a Father, in which young fathers can talk with other fathers in the area about fatherhood.

BCHD also partners with schools and colleges to provide sexual health education and resources to students. At one local college, BCHD provides comprehensive sexual health resources to students, such as on-site HIV and STI testing. Using the Taking Pride in Prevention program federal grant funding, BCHD educates area public school's students on where they can receive resources and provides students the opportunities to ask staff questions related to health education.

Following the pause in accreditation during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting historic level of public health response, Michigan is using Cycle 8 of the accreditation program to support local health departments as they emerge from pandemic response activities. Cycle 8 of accreditation has been designed with a focus on rebuilding and strengthening Michigan's governmental public health system, including building relationships between state and local program staff, and identifying and developing supports to meet the needs of local health individually and collectively.

Highlights in Berrien County included an evaluation of food services, de la Rambelge said.

"The BCHD inspectors did an excellent job of flowing into the areas where action was taking place during the evaluation of the food service establishment (FSE)," she said. "BCHD inspection staff handled themselves in a professional, proficient manner and displayed a friendly demeanor that promotes a positive relationship with the FSE staff."

She said the reviewer was "immensely impressed" with BCHD's annual reports, specifically with the level of breakdown included among the communicable disease groups, which were reported by gender, race and age, and included three-year trends. Credit also went to the department's vision team, which the reviewer said does a great job of working with all schools to help children of any background or ability have good vision for learning and success in life.

In accepting the award on behalf of the health department, Miller said the accreditation is more than a paper award.

"Congratulations to our team at the Berrien County Health Department for another successful accreditation cycle. The continued status reflects the daily work of our staff across many programs," he said.

Miller said the BCHD was reviewed across 11 major program and administrative areas, with some having more than 20 performance indicators to identify strengths, needed supports and opportunities for improvement.

"We value our accreditation status and are grateful to have a supportive board of health and board of commissioners as we work to prevent disease, protect public health and promote optimal quality of life for all," he said.

Contact: jswidwa@thehp.com, Twitter: @HPSwidwa

Berrien County townships listed in car crash survey

By PMG STAFF

Two municipalities in Berrien County were listed among the Top 20 of the state's most dangerous cities for car crashes, according to a survey by attorneys who specialize in automotive crash law.

In a Detroit News article that gave a breakdown of the car crashes survey using 2024 data, Benton Township and Niles Township were listed at No. 9 and No. 18, respectively.

Listed ninth in the survey, Benton Township had 426 crashes per 10,000 residents. The community of 14,105 residents saw 602 total crashes with four fatalities and 192 injuries.

Coming in at the 18th spot was Niles Township, which saw 365 crashes per 10,000 residents. The township of 14,300 residents had 523 total crashes with one fatality and 166 injuries.

The list of the 20 municipalities with the most vehicle crashes per capita was released as part of a report last week by the Michigan Auto Law.

"The goal of this report is to help drivers stay informed and safe," Steve Gursten, Michigan Auto Law's president, said in a statement to the Detroit News. "We want drivers to make informed decisions about where they drive and to know when they need to be especially careful and vigilant behind the wheel."

The Farmington Hills-based law firm said the report's rankings are based on an analysis of 2024 data from Michigan Traffic Crash Facts and the U.S. Census. The firm compiled the rankings for Michigan cities with at least 500 crashes in a single year and populations of 10,000 or more. The rankings are based on crashes per 10,000 residents.

Michigan Auto Law also publishes reports on the state's most dangerous intersections and most dangerous roundabouts.

At the top

The five most dangerous cities for car crashes, according to the survey, were as follows:

1. Walker had 546 crashes per 10,000 residents. The Kent County city, which has a population of 25,921, had 1,416 total crashes with four fatalities and 323 injuries.

2. Auburn Hills had 509 crashes per 10,000 residents. The Oakland County city, which has a population of 26,047, had 1,328 crashes with four fatalities and 319 injuries.

3. Emmet Township had 492 crashes per 10,000 residents. The township in Calhoun County, which has a population of 11,755, had 579 total crashes with four fatalities and 85 injuries.

4. Traverse City had 487 crashes per 10,000 residents. The city in Grand Traverse County, which has a population of 15,782, had 769 total crashes with one fatality and 155 injuries.

5. Romulus had 477 crashes per 10,000 residents. The Wayne County community of 24,652 had 1,178 total crashes with six fatalities and 350 injuries.

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OPINION

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What are the most overlooked yard maintenance tasks?

By ANGIE HICKS
Ask Angi (TNS)

As the weather warms up, many homeowners are eager to get outside and start mowing – but a great-looking lawn throughout spring and summer depends on more than just regular cuts. In fact, some of the most important steps for a healthy yard are also the ones most often overlooked.

One of the biggest mistakes homeowners make is mowing too short. While it may seem like cutting grass lower will reduce how often you need to mow, it can actually stress your lawn and make it more vulnerable to weeds and drought. A better approach is to keep grass slightly longer and avoid cutting more than one-third of the blade at a time. This helps retain moisture and encourages deeper, stronger roots.

Another commonly missed step is maintaining your mower itself. Dull blades can tear grass instead of cutting it cleanly, which weakens the lawn and can lead to disease. Taking the time to sharpen your mower blades at the start of the season can make a noticeable difference in both the health and appearance of your yard.

Spring is also the ideal time to feed your lawn, but many homeowners either skip fertilizing or apply it too late. A slow-release fertilizer early in the season helps support even growth and gives your lawn the nutrients it needs to thrive through the warmer months. Similarly, addressing bare or patchy spots now – by overseeding or spot-treating – can prevent weeds from taking hold later. If you're unsure about the right products or timing for your region, a landscaping pro can help create a tailored plan to set your lawn up for success.

Beyond the lawn itself, garden beds and landscaping often get overlooked. Refreshing mulch not only improves curb appeal but also helps retain moisture and suppress weeds. Tackling weeds early, before they spread, can save significant time and effort as the season progresses.

It's also important to consider what's happening below the surface. Soil can become compacted over the winter, especially in high-traffic areas. Aerating your lawn allows water, air and nutrients to reach the roots more effectively, setting the foundation for healthier growth throughout the season. For larger yards or more complex landscaping needs, hiring a professional can ensure these tasks are done efficiently and correctly, saving you time and helping avoid costly mistakes.

The key to yard care is getting ahead of issues before they become bigger – and more expensive – problems. By focusing on these often-overlooked tasks early, homeowners can enjoy a greener, healthier lawn with less maintenance and fewer surprises as the weather heats up.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

Who shops at farmers markets in the U.S.?

By BRET R. SHAW
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(The Conversation)

THE CONVERSATION

People who shop at the more than 8,700 farmers markets operating in the U.S. either year-round or seasonally generally fall into six distinct groups. Three of them are more interested in farmers markets than the others. I study local food systems as a strategic communications scholar, and that's the main takeaway from a study that I conducted with several colleagues.

As we explained in the March 2026 edition of British Food Journal, people who fall into those groups have different levels of interest in farmers markets but also have some things in common. Most people who shop at them are motivated to go because they want healthy, fresh food, they support local farmers and they think going to the farmers market is fun.

This is not a niche activity. An earlier study I worked on found that 81 percent of U.S. adults said that they shop at a farmers market at least once a year.

For both studies, we pulled survey data from a nationally representative sample of 5,141 U.S. consumers that was conducted Aug. 2-11, 2023. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.8 percentage points.

Researchers define farmers markets and local food in different ways. So we asked respondents to simply think of farmers markets as places where they can buy food directly from more than one vendor and where all or most of the items are locally grown, raised or made. We defined local food as being grown in their state or 250 miles or less from their homes.

Highly engaged, health-focused and emerging interest

We determined that about 18 percent of those surveyed are "highly engaged" farmers market shoppers. They care a lot about food and enjoy buying, preparing and eating fresh food. They are excited about many aspects of farmers markets, which are places where this group shops for a variety of reasons, such as supporting local farmers, buying nutritious, delicious food and connecting with community.

Nearly 65 percent of these shoppers were women. This group was the most diverse, with 27 percent of respondents identifying as Hispanic, 20 percent Black and 4 percent multiracial. They also had significantly lower average annual household incomes than other groups, averaging $40,000-$50,000.

We found that another 18 percent of the people surveyed were "health-focused." Like the highly engaged shoppers, they make buying and eating healthy food a high priority. However, this group doesn't enjoy cooking as much. The health-focused group tends to avoid genetically modified foods, as well as convenient options like takeout food, frozen dinners and microwave-ready meals.

About 58 percent of them were women and their average age was 57, making them the oldest of the groups. Roughly 70 percent of the health-focused group was white, making it less diverse than the highly engaged group but more diverse than some of the other groups.

Finally, about 19 percent of the respondents were what we called "emerging interest" farmers market shoppers. They value convenience and learning about food. This group was the most likely to see going to the farmers market as a fun activity.

Emerging interest shoppers were nearly evenly split by gender, with 52 percent women. Their average age was 44 years old, making them the youngest of the groups.

Convenience, practicality and happenstance

We also identified three groups of consumers who were less interested in farmers markets than the highly engaged, health-focused and emerging interest shoppers, even if some of them do occasionally shop at the markets anyway.

About 16 percent of farmers market shoppers are people we identified as "convenience" shoppers. They are more likely to eat frozen dinners and buy takeout. They rarely cook meals from scratch using produce and other fresh ingredients.

About 43 percent of them say they never or rarely shop at a farmers market. Around 59 percent of them are men and 37 percent are people of color.

Roughly 17 percent of these shoppers fall into a "practical" category. They methodically plan their grocery shopping and are among the least interested in farmers markets, with more than half saying that they either rarely or never shop at them.

Practical consumers were close to evenly split by gender; 53 percent were women. Their income tended to be the highest of the groups, typically in the $60,000-$75,000 range.

We called the 12 percent of the shoppers in the final group we surveyed "uninvolved." This group showed very little interest in farmers markets or any other food-related activities. About 3 in 4 rarely or never go to farmers markets. Nearly 70 percent of uninvolved farmers market shoppers were men and 76 percent were white.

When someone in the uninvolved group goes to a farmers market, they may be going out of happenstance or because someone in their life wants them to go – not due to any personal interest.

If you forget, you'll miss it

We believe this information could help farmers markets better serve their customers and perhaps attract more shoppers.

People can, of course, go to farmers markets for more than one reason, and not everybody fits neatly into one of these categories. And everyone we surveyed had something in common: Forgetting to go was the biggest reason shoppers of all kinds didn't make a trip to the farmers market in a given week.

Bret R. Shaw is professor of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Don Campbell / PMG Staff

Thousands of historical items from the House of David are on display at Chris Siriano's House of David Museum in St. Joseph.

MUSEUM

From page A1

One of the longest lasting intentional communities in United States history, the Israelite House of David was founded by Benjamin and Sarah Purnell, who moved to the Benton Harbor area in 1903 to set up the religious colony. They quickly had several hundred followers living on the vast property and the group grew over the next decades thanks to endeavors including its successful amusement park, touring musical groups, and baseball teams.

"By 1908, they had a little amusement park that became a gigantic, pre-Disneyland type amusement park – the most popular in the country for a couple decades or more – with miniature trains, a zoo, pony rides, hotels and restaurants," Siriano said. "They grew and people came from every corner of the globe to join. They built an empire right there east of Benton Harbor. They owned a diamond mine in Sydney, Australia, a gold mine in Oklahoma and a coal mine in Kentucky. They were a giant enterprise and money-making machine. They had over 100,000 acres of farmland and an island out in Lake Michigan called High Island. They had massive holdings around the world but it was all based on a faith called House of David."

Siriano thanked Dowagiac Mayor Patrick Bakeman and Economic Development Liaison Matt Money for making the relocation to 100 La Grange possible. With 18,000 square feet of space to work with, Siriano said there will be plenty of space to showcase artifacts as well as a dedicated theater space to show his award-winning documentaries on the subject.

"[Mayor Bakeman] was amazing and very supportive," he said. He got in touch with [Matt Money] who located the new facility on 100 LaGrange. It fits the bill perfectly. It gives me space; I can have an indoor theater for showing my movies, which I've made four so far. I hope to continue to do that. There is lots of indoor space to breathe and for future growth and it's got a beautiful penthouse upstairs for living quarters. Everything fit; I looked in three different counties for quite a long time. [Mayor Bakeman] is a shining star; he really grabbed the bull by the horns and turned things over to Money, and here we go."

Siriano said renovation and rehab work on the La Grange building is expected to begin in July and hopes to begin moving museum artifacts in the fall with hopes for an October opening date.

"I intend to change the look of the outside of the building to be more in the style of House of David architecture," he said. "They have a place called the Diamond House mansion with man-made rocks and the House of David hotel, which is spectacular like a Roman empire building. I have hopes of turning that building into something more cosmetically pleasing like that. I have stone masons and a lot of really great workers."

The House of David Museum will bolster a Dowagiac historical ecosystem that also features the Dowagiac Area History Museum and the Heddon Museum. Siriano recalled the warm reception he received when his film "Compelling Curiosity," aired at both Southwestern Michigan College and the Beckwith Theatre in 2010.

"They aired it a couple times to standing room only crowds. The reception I got there was grander than I had ever imagined," he said. "I felt it was a smaller community than Benton Harbor or St. Joe, but they embraced it big time even way back then. I never forgot that.

"Dowagiac is such a beautiful, historic town; there's nothing like it," he continued. "I'm a historian – that's what I've been doing for more than half my life – so I appreciate the history and the fact that the town embraces not only their own history, but encourages museums like mine to come and share. That's a huge part of it. Also, the facility I found gives me tons of breathing room because I have tens of thousands of artifacts to display and I just need more space.

"I think Dowagiac will be extremely excited and proud."

FITZ

From page A1

that the important work of the prosecutor's office continues without delay. The appointed individual will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, which runs through 2028. To continue in the role beyond that period, the successor must run in the 2028 General Election.

100 Women Who Care donates to organization

By PMG STAFF

EDWARDSBURG — Twenty-two members of 100 Women Who Care gathered for their April meeting at the Edwardsburg American Legion, where local organizations presented community-focused initiatives in need of support.

Representatives from Wakelee Bible Church Children's Ministry and the Cass County School Supply Spectacular, sponsored by United Way of Southwest Michigan, outlined their respective projects and funding goals.

Karen Lehman spoke on behalf of Wakelee Bible Church, highlighting the urgent need to renovate and expand the church's nursery facilities. The project aims to create a safer and more accommodating environment for young children as the congregation experiences growth among young families.

Photo provided

Karen Lehman of Wakelee Bible Church received a donation from 100 Women Who Care for the church's nursery facility expansion.

According to Lehman, the church currently cares for seven toddlers and five newborns during Sunday morning worship services. Two of the infants were born this past winter, underscoring the increasing demand for adequate nursery space.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Wakelee Bible Church Children's Ministry Project was named the evening's winner, receiving the group's collective donation.

Work on the nursery has already begun, with ongoing fundraising efforts planned to bring the project to completion. Church leaders emphasize that providing a secure and welcoming space for children is essential to supporting families within the congregation.

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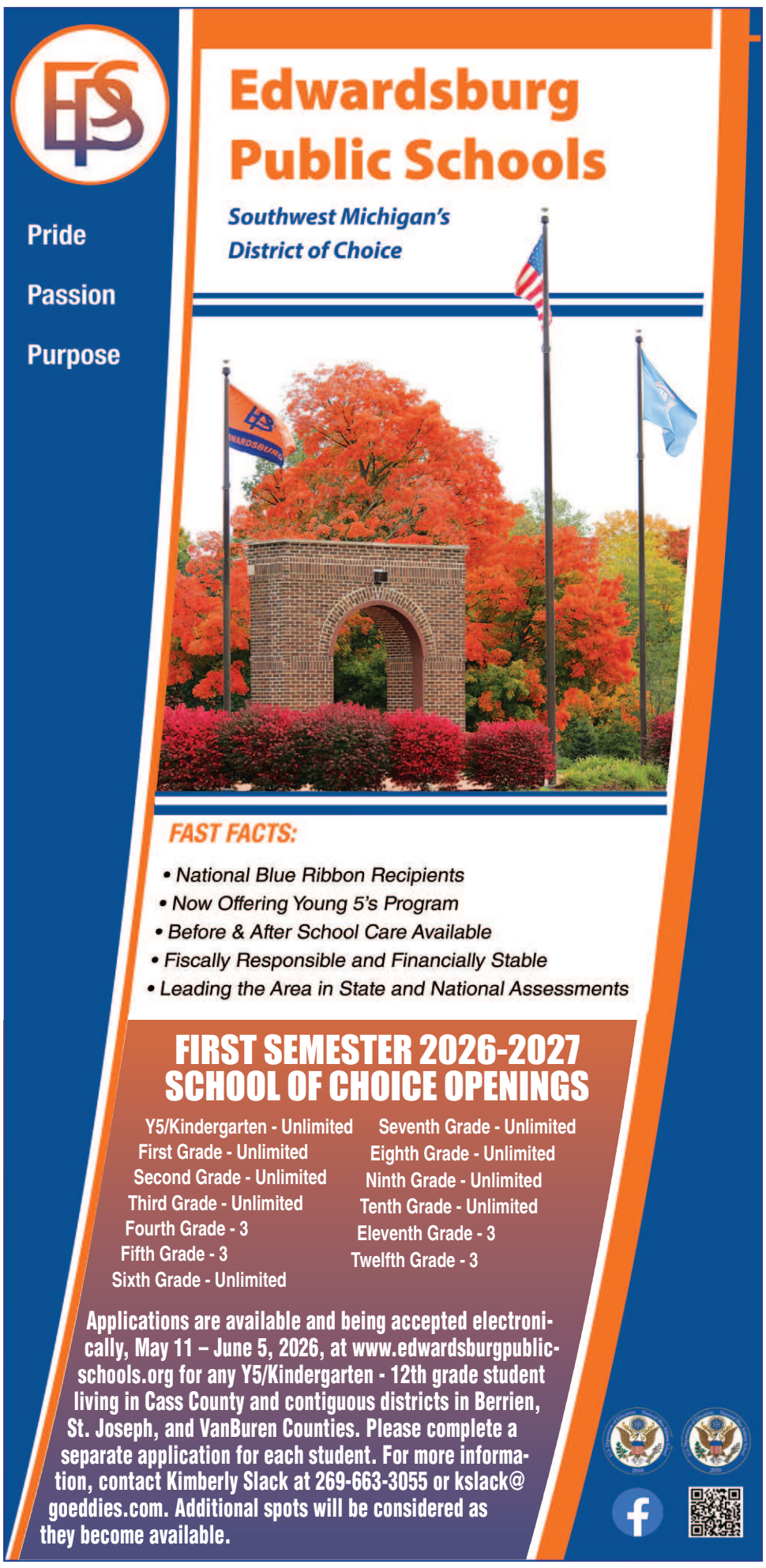
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OUTDOORS

Michigan to limit how many bucks hunters can shoot in the future

By CAROL THOMPSON
The Detroit News (TNS)

LANSING — Michigan hunters in the Lower Peninsula will only be allowed to kill one buck starting in March 2027, the state commission that sets hunting and fishing rules declared Wednesday.

The change is in service of efforts to control the booming deer population in southern Michigan, where some communities have resorted to culling deer to reduce the number of animals moving through their neighborhoods and roadways.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission approved the new limit Wednesday, along with a suite of other changes to deer hunting rules, during a meeting in Gaylord.

Michigan hunters in Lower Peninsula face one-buck rule

Starting in 2027, hunters in the Lower Peninsula will have the option of buying a combination license that would allow them to take one antlered deer, with the second tag only valid for an antlerless deer. They could also buy a single deer license that would allow them to shoot a buck with three or more antler points.

Until then, hunters in the Lower Peninsula have been allowed to take two bucks. That led to some hunters choosing to pass on harvesting does, or female deer, said Brent Rudolph, deer, elk and moose management specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"Many of our hunters seem unwilling, as long as they have the option to sit and wait (for a buck), to take an antlerless deer," he said.

Killing more female deer will help rein in some of the issues residents face in southern Michigan counties with the huge herd, such as deer leaping in front of vehicles, eating crops, and spreading disease, state officials said.

Mike Thorman warned the commission not to put antler point restrictions on licenses for a single deer. He said that could discourage people from hunting and said it's sometimes hard to tell how many points are on a buck.

See **HUNTING**, page B1

Brandywine, Buchanan win D3 track titles

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BANGOR — It was a banner day for the Brandywine girls and Buchanan boys track teams Wednesday at Bangor High School.

When the dust settled, the Bobcat girls and Buchanan boys hoisted Division 3 Regional Title trophies. The Brandywine girls scored 97 points to edge second-place Red Arrow (River Valley-New Buffalo co-op) by three points to win its first-ever regional title. On the boys' side, Buchanan tallied 127 points and second-place Red Arrow finished with 68.

Lily Gill earned a regional title in the 100 hurdles with a time of 16.19 and anchored the winning 800 relay team of Mackenna Price, Karleigh Byrd and Zaya Price with a time of 1:53.63, narrowly beating rival Buchanan's state-qualifying team of Quaniah Crum, Justyce Cashier, Lira Myers and Estrella King (1:53). Mackenna Price placed first in long jump with a 15-10.25 leap.

On the boys' side, Buchanan's Brody Reed and Kavion Goss earned regional titles in the 200 (23.15) and 400 (52.70) respectively. The duo helped the 800 relay team, which also featured Jontel Williams and Tate Figy, take first place with a time of 1:33.85. Jack Sherwood, Preston Payne, Liam McBeth and Goss won the 1600 relay in 3:34.77 and the 3200 relay team of Jcob Kuntz, John Keser, Sherwood and McBeth won in 8:34.58. Buchanan's Matthew Flynn also won the pole vault with a leap of 12-6.

The Brandywine girls and Buchanan boys track teams won Division 3 regional track titles Wednesday at Bangor High School.

Cassopolis placed fourth to turn in a strong performance in the meet. The Rangers produced three regional champions in Aaron Buck-Hooper (11.22 100), Jaylen Pratt (6-3 high jump) and Trevon Peterson-Evans (20-4.5 long jump).

Other local state qualifiers include Brandywine's Elihja Burt, who placed second in the high jump with a 6-3 leap, and Cassopolis' 400 relay team of Pratt, Nikolas Craig, Cameron Steward and Buck-Hooper (45.39).

Boys

Team scores – 1. Buchanan 127, 2. Red Arrow (River Valley-New Buffalo) 68, 3. Delton-Kellogg 63, 4. Cassopolis 53.5, 5. Lawton 48, 6. Hartford 47, 7. Kalamazoo Christian 46, 8. Bridgman 41, 9. Comstock 40.5, 10. Watervliet 32, 11. Parchment 25.5, 12. (tie) Brandywine 23, Bangor 23, 14. Coloma 14, 15. Bloomingdale 9.5.

See **TRACK**, page B1

Buchanan second at Division 4 tennis regional

PMG STAFF

ALLEGAN — The Buchanan girls tennis team is state tournament-bound.

The Bucks qualified for the Division 4 state finals by finishing second at the regional Wednesday at Allegan. Buchanan tallied 20 points, second to Allegan with 32 points. Brandywine placed sixth with seven points and Dowagiac tied for eighth with two points.

In the No. 1 singles flight, Buchanan's Rebeca Ballesteros-Borrego advanced to the Finals, falling to Allegan's Addy Fales 6-0, 6-2. Finley Kehoe advanced to the finals at No. 3 singles before falling to Allegan's Kendall Halstead 6-1, 6-0. In the No. 4 singles flight, Emily Holt advanced to the Semifinals before falling to Allegan's Ava Thompson 6-1, 6-1.

Buchanan's No. 2 doubles tandem of Taylor Sweeney-Ava Sears advanced to the finals, where they fell to Allegan's Hanna Kievit-Taylor Fuller 6-2, 6-2. The Bucks' No. 4 doubles duo of Addison and Ava Brown advanced to the finals, falling to Allegan's Kaylee Haas-Hailey Gauthier 7-5, 6-2.

The Buchanan girls tennis team qualified for the Division 4 state finals by finishing second at the regional Wednesday at Allegan.

Brandywine's Louisa Peterson advanced to the semifinals at No. 2 singles, falling to Holland Black 6-2; 7-5. River's Kate Tingey 3-6,

ACC backs Big Ten's push for playoffs to expand to 24 teams

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. — The Atlantic Coast Conference is backing the Big Ten's push for a 24-team playoff, commissioner Jim Phillips said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the end of three days of spring meetings in a posh resort in northeast Florida, Phillips said ACC coaches and athletic directors reached consensus on wanting to double the current College Football Playoff model.

"When you're leaving national championship-contending teams and schools out of the playoff, you don't have the right number," Phillips said. "We lived through it."

Phillips pointed to unbeaten Florida State getting snubbed from a four-team CFP field in 2023 and Notre Dame getting left out of last year's 12-team model.

"Notre Dame was a CFP-worthy team this year; they just were," he said. "The other rationale is there is so much investment going on in the sport of football and in college athletics. … If you're going to ask presidents and chancellors and boards to continue to invest in their football programs, it's really important that they have hope, that they have an opportunity at the beginning of the season to get into the playoff."

Coaches and administrators have clamored for more access to the lucrative and potentially job-saving playoff. They point to having just 12 playoff spots for 138 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision, a miniscule percentage compared to many other collegiate sports or major professional leagues.

"The more the merrier," Florida State athletic director Michael Alford said. "The more opportunities to get teams in and give student-athletes opportunities."

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B1

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HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

SOFTBALL

May 8 results

BUCHANAN 18, CONSTANTINE 1

Buchanan	**8**	**2**	**6**	**—**	**18**	**19**	**0**
Constantine	**1**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**1**	**3**	**2**

WP – A. Villaire 4k. LP – Robinson 0k.
Top hitters – Buchanan: M. Ely 3b, 2b, 1b, 4 RBI; R. Berry HR, 2b, 4 RBI; C. Weinberg HR, RBI; T. Carlin 2b, 1b, 2 RBI; A. Bosse 2 1b, 2 RBI; L. Atkinson 2 1b, RBI; H. Griffin 2b, 1b; A. Berry 2 1b, RBI. Constantine: Evans 2b, RBI; L. Michalek 2b; Walker 1b.

BUCHANAN 16, CONSTANTINE 2

Buchanan	**0**	**2**	**2**	**—**	**16**	**14**	**1**
Constantine	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**2**	**6**	**3**

WP – H. Legault 5k. LP – Graber 1k.
Top hitters – Buchanan: C. Weinberg HR, 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; R. Berry 3B, 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; A. Berry 3B, 1B, 3 RBI; K. Holloway 2 1B, RBI; M. Ely 2 1B, RBI; L. Atkinson 1B, 2 RBI. Constantine: Denman 2B, 1B, RBI; Solis 1B; Evans 2 1B; Jacobs RBI.

Monday's results

BUCHANAN 17, SCHOOLCRAFT 2

Buchanan	**3**	**4(10)**	**—**	**17**	**8**	**3**
Schoolcraft	**0**	**0 2**	**—**	**2**	**2**	**3**

WP – H. Legault 0k. LP – S. Mozola 0k.
Top hitters – Buchanan: T. Heller HR, 2B, 3 RBI; A. Berry HR, 2 RBI; R. Berry 2B, 2 RBI; M. Ely 3B, 2 1B; C. Weinberg 1B, 2 RBI; T. Carlin 1B, RBI. Schoolcraft: V. DeVries 1B; S. Williams 1B.

BUCHANAN 11, SCHOOLCRAFT 7

Buchanan	**3**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**1**	**—**	**11**	**13**	**2**
Schoolcraft	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**7**	**12**	**1**

WP – A. Villaire (9k). LP – B. Agnone (7k).
Top hitters – Buchanan: R. Berry 2B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg 2 2B, 2 RBI; L. Atkinson 2 1B, RBI; M. Ely 2 1B, RBI; A. Berry 2 1B; A. Bosse 1B, RBI. Schoolcraft: K. Welburn HR, 1B, RBI; V. DeVries 2B, 2 1B, RBI; S. Williams 2 1B, RBI; L. Ostlund 1B, RBI; B. Bozell 2B, RBI; B. Boyes 2B.

Thursday's results

BUCHANAN 9, HAMILTON 3

Buchanan	**2**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**—**	**9**	**12**	**2**
Hamilton	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**3**	**8**	**1**

WP – H. Legault 2k. LP – Goetsch 2k.
Top hitters – Buchanan: T. Heller 3B, 2 1B, 3 RBI; T. Carlin 3B, 2B, 1B, RBI; A. Berry 3B, 1B, RBI; L. Atkinson 2B, 1B; C. Weinberg 1B, RBI; R. Berry 1B, RBI; H. Legault 1B, RBI. Hamilton: Mersman 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; Goetsch 3 1B, RBI; Petroleje 1B; DeHorn 1B; Pitsch 1B.

BUCHANAN 10, HAMILTON 7

Buchanan	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**	**3**	**—**	**10**	**15**	**2**
Hamilton	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**7**	**9**	**3**

WP – A. Villaire (2k). LP – Mersman (1k).
Top hitters – Buchanan: R. Berry HR, 3B, 2 RBI; T. Carlin 3 2B, RBI; K. Singleton 2 1B, 3 RBI; K. Holloway 2B, 2 1B, 2 RBI; L. Atkinson 2 1B, RBI; T. Heller 2B, 1B. Hamilton: Brown 3B, 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; DeHorn HR, RBI; Mersman 3B, RBI; Petroleje 1B; Pitsch 1B.

Girls tennis
Monday's results

NILES 5, BERRIEN SPRINGS 3

Singles — 1. Cheyenne Small (N) d. Nini Ren 6-1, 6-1; 2. Melody Kertawidjaja (BS) d. Donna Babler 2-6, 4-6, 12-10; 3. Mia Abarca (N) d. Briella Streelman 5-7, 6-3, 13-11; 4. Hyewon Lee (BS) d. Bella Castillo 6-0, 6-1.
Doubles – 1. Hailee Mitchell-Aurora Custard (N) d. Sarina Halder-Ella Eckerley 6-0, 6-1; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlet Thalman (N) d. Paige Wagner-Allison Parker 6-1, 6-1; 3. Piper Perez-Angie Pangemanan (BS) d. Norah Rogers-Carrie Castillo 6-0, 6-3; 4. Kennedy Holloway-Bella Ladesma (N) d. Nellie Patsika-Azucena Ventura 6-1, 6-0.

Boys golf

LAKELAND JAMBOREE

At Orchard Hills
Team scores – 1. Buchanan 186, 2. (tie) Berrien Springs 201, Brandywine 201, 4. Red Arrow 211, 5. Dowagiac 214, 6. Howardsville 222, 7. Our Lady of the Lake 223.
Buchanan – Jacob Kuntz 45, Tyler Frame 46, Caden McMahan 47, Austin Gregory 48.
Brandywine – Jayden Thomas 46, Blake Magyar 47, Davis Lotsbaich 50, Cody Hoskin 58.
Dowagiac – Jeremiah Bond 42, James Greene 56, Emmett Roach 57, Mason Ausra 59.

GIRLS SOCCER

Monday's results

EDWARDSBURG 1, KALAMAZOO COUGARS 0

Goals — Edwardsburg: Kya Shier
Assists: Edwardsburg: Marissa Heiser
Records – Edwardsburg 5-8-0

Thursday's results

EDWARDSBURG 1, SOUTH HAVEN 0

Goals: Jada Gaideski
Assists: Kateland Lira

TRACK

From page B2

State qualifiers

100 – 1. Aarenn Buck-Hooper (Cassopolis) 11.22, 2. Kaden Santana (Brandywine) 11.24, 3. Antwan Johnson (Comstock) 11.27; 200 – 1. Brody Reed (Buchanan) 23.15, 2. Brady Busick (Bridgman) 23.28; 400 – 1. Kavion Goss (Buchanan) 52.70, 2. Landon Madden (Delton-Kellogg) 53.44; 800 – 1. Landon Rogers (Red Arrow) 2:02.29, 2. Liam McBeth (Buchanan) 2:03.78; 1600 – 1. Landon Rogers (Red Arrow) 4:48.00, 2. Mason Rogers (Red Arrow) 4:48.51; 3200 – 1. Landon Rogers (Red Arrow) 10:21.51, 2. Mason Rogers (Red Arrow) 10:22.11; 110 hurdles – 1. Nolan Schaap (Kalamazoo Christian) 14.67, 2. Landon Madden (Delton-Kellogg) 15.31; 300 hurdles – 1. Nolan Schaap (Kalamazoo Christian) 42.14, 2. Ryan Sinclair (Delton-Kellogg) 42.54; 400 relay – 1. Comstock (Kedan Duff, Teegan Hagenbuch, Daquarius Mckinney, Antwan Johnson) 45.06, 2. Cassopolis (Jaylen Pratt, Nikolas Craig, Cameron Steward, Aarenn Buck-Hooper) 45.39; 800 relay – 1. Buchanan (Jontel Williams, Kavion Goss, Tate Figy, Brody Reed) 1:33.85, 2. Bridgman (Fernando Martinez, Ethan Locke, Jaxon Wendzel, Brady Busick) 1:35.22; 1600 relay – 1. Buchanan (Jack Sherwood, Preston Payne, Liam McBeth, Kavion Goss) 3:34.77, 2. Comstock (Kedan Duff, Antwan Johnson, Aiden Woods, Teegan Hagenbuch) 3:39.09; 3200 relay – 1. Buchanan (Jacob Kuntz, John Keser, Jack Sherwood, Liam McBeth) 8:34.58, 2. Hartford (Aiden Mcdonald, Aiden Mcdonald, Robert Lenza, Josais Robles, Alex Dias) 8:43.34; shot put – 1. Caiden Mitchell (Lawton) 48-03, 2. Quinn Noll (Bridgman) 47-06; discus – 1. Caiden Mitchell (Lawton) 134-06, 2. Evan Schadowsky (Coloma) 127-03; high jump – 1. Jaylen Pratt (Cassopolis) 6-03, 2. Elijhia Burt (Brandywine) 6-03; pole vault – 1. Matthew Finn (Buchanan) 12-06, 2. Nick Muday (Delton-Kellogg) 12-06; long jump – 1. Trevon Peterson-Evans (Cassopolis) 20-04.5; 2. Cole Getz (Watervliet) 20-03.25.

Girls

Team scores – 1. Brandywine 97, 2. Red Arrow 94, 3. Bridgman 73, 4. Watervliet 69, 5. Delton-Kellogg 49, 6. Hartford 46, 7. Buchanan 45.5, 8. Kalamazoo Christian 39, 9. Bangor 31, 10. Lawton 29.5, 11. Comstock 27, 12. Parchment 21, 13. Coloma 18, 14. Cassopolis 15, 15. Bloomingdale 3.

State qualifiers

100 – 1. London Edwards (Parchment) 13.07, 2. Anne Gradowski (Red Arrow) 13.08; 200 – 1. Anne Gradowski (Red Arrow) 26.54, 2. London Edwards (Parchment) 26.91. 400 – 1. Ava Thomas (K Christian) 1:02.24, 2. Kandin Shuler (Bridgman) 1:02.67; 800 – 1. Anna Howell (Bridgman) 2:31.46, 2. Harper Bowman (Red Arrow) 2:35.83; 1600 – 1. Emma Pinkowski (Bridgman) 5:35.29, 2. Alison Murray (Brandywine) 6:00.66; 3200 – 1. Emma Pinkowski (Bridgman) 11:52.93, 2. Daniella Romero (Watervliet) 12:47.79. 100 hurdles – 1. Miranda Lowell (Watervliet) 17.25, 2. Lily Gill (Brandywine) 17.28; 300 hurdles – 1. Izabelle Gruber (Delton-Kellogg) 49.04, 2. Lily Gill (Brandywine) 49.24. 400 relay – 1. Red Arrow (Lydia Denham, Kynzi Brooks, Anne Gradowski, Helen Donner) 52.46, Brandywine (Grace Colbert-Lorenz, Karleigh Byrd, Zaya Price, Lilly Gill) 52.46; 800 relay – 1. Brandywine (Mackenna Price, Karleigh Byrd, Zaya Price, Lily Gill) 1:53.63, 2. Buchanan (Quaniah Crum, Justyce Cashier, Lira Myers, Estrella King) 1:53.66. 1600 relay – 1. Red Arrow (Anne Gradowski, Brittney Hernandez, Helen Donner, Harper Bowman) 4:19.64, 2. Bridgman (Emma Pinkowski, Angel Milam, Kandin Shuler, Anna Howell) 4:22.33. 3200 relay – 1. Bridgman (Emma Pinkowski, Angel Milam, Kandin Shuler, Anna Howell) 10:38.09, 2. Watervliet (Braelyn Campbell, Daniella Romero, Alex Zuniga, Payton Yeske) 10:57.18; shot put – 1. Rebecca Johnson (Hartford) 33-00, 2. Kaley Hollis (Hartford) 30-09; discus – 1. Lauryn Anderson (Bangor) 110-03; 2. Rebecca Johnson (Hartford) 100-07; high jump – Ereni Polhamus (Comstock) 5-3; 2. Zaya Price (Brandywine) 5-2; pole vault – 1. Katie Lambers (K Christian) 8-03; 2. Daisy Karsen (Lawton) 7-09. long jump – 1. Mackenna Price (Brandywine) 15-10.25; 2. Braelyn Campbell (Watervliet) 15-05.

PELLOW SIGNS WITH SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Photo provided

Brandywine softball standout Macy Pellow signed her National Letter of Intent Wednesday to play for Saint Mary's College in South Bend.

PLAYOFFS

From page B2

Phillips also said television partner ESPN "has been pretty clear with all of us that they'd like it to stay at 12, maybe 14, but no higher than 16."

No matter how much the ACC and other leagues support a 24-team playoff, the Big Ten and the Southeastern Conference have exclusive power to determine the CFP's future. Big Ten commissioner Tony Petitti and the SEC's Greg Sankey have the ultimate say on any expansion.

The SEC is pushing to expand to 16 teams, with an emphasis on at-large bids. The Big Ten supports 24 teams and initially wanted multiple automatic qualifiers from each conference.

The playoff expanded from four to 12 teams in 2024, and after decision-makers failed to reach an expansion agreement, the CFP will use the same model for the 2026-27 season. The discussion carries major implications for the college football calendar, including the start and end of the season and the role of money-making conference championship games.

An NCAA committee last month recommended that FBS teams play a 12-game schedule over 14 weeks beginning in 2027 with the season starting on the Thursday of what is now designated Week Zero and ending the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Last week, the American Football Coaches Association proposed changes to the schedule that included eliminating conference championship games, reducing scheduled bye weeks from two to one and reducing the minimum number of days between games to no fewer than six.

Matt Kelley / AP

Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner Jim Phillips smiles during a news conference at the ACC media days on July 22, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

Sankey stood firm earlier this week on expanding to a 16-team CFP.

Sankey said all changes in college athletics must come with appropriate research – something he believes the SEC has provided in support of a four-team expansion to 16. To Sankey, moving to 16 teams is an unknown, with one big question being whether an expanded playoff would make up for an SEC title game that generates more than $80 million a year for the powerhouse conference.

The current CFP contract includes a deadline of Dec. 1, 2026, to make any changes for the following season.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI
32097 Bertrand St, Niles, MI 49120
To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.
The Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120, to consider the following matter:
1) SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST APPLICATION PZE2026-0006. Property is owned by David Krizman, property address is 70700 Ironwood Road, Niles, MI, and is 5.00 acres. Parcel ID Number is 14-070-018-050-00, zoned Single Family Residential. Applicant is Jonathan Anderstrom, 70915 N. Driftwood Dr., Edwardsburg, MI 49112. Applicant has requested Institutional Use of the property which is allowed with a Special Land Use in the SFR zoning. Applicant wishes to use it as a home and family operated homeschool hybrid program.
Written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendments, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing, and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing. All persons interested are invited to be present at the Public Hearing. Copies of the Application are available for inspection at the Milton Township Hall during regular open business hours. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.
Milton Township Planning Commission

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 1, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Carmen Peake and Eugene Peake, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC
Date of Mortgage: February 18, 2000
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 29, 2000
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $48,877.55
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point on the Westerly line of Lot 12, which is South 33 degrees 26 minutes East, 132.0 feet from the most Westerly corner of Lot 12, Villa of Andersonville, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 42 of Deeds, Page 356, Cass County Records; thence South 65 degrees 29 minutes 30 seconds West, 152.74 feet, more or less, to the East line of Highway M-60, thence North 4 degrees East along the East line of Highway M-60, 80.77 feet; thence North 71 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds East, 105.54 feet, more or less, to the Westerly line of said Lot 12; thence South 33 degrees 26 minutes East, 60.0 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 105 Hilltop Ln, Cassopolis, MI 49031-1234
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
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SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
VARIANCE REQUEST, PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Silver Creek Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing and meeting on June 3, 2026 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047, within the Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said meeting are as follows:

The request of Kurt Cleary regarding the property at 31420 Lakeshore Drive, Dowagiac, MI (Parcle No. 14-130-280-062-00) Dowagiac, MI, a platted lot located in the "WD" Waterfront Residential District Zoning Classification for variances in order to permit the construction of a new 1050 square-foot house, attached 650 square-foot garage; 100 square foot 3-season room; and 159.2 square foot porch situated with the garage on the east (road) side of the property and the 3-season room and porch facing west toward Magician Lake. The property in question is a platted lot 3792 square feet in area. The applicant alleges a road project has reduced the size of the parcel:

o An 18-foot 11-inch variance from the required 20-foot required rear yard (roadside) in order to permit construction of the garage with a 1-foot 1-inch setback from the road right-of-way being 17-feet 7-inches from the side of the road.
o A 4-foot variance from the required 30-foot front yard (lake side) setback in order to permit construction of the 3-season room and the porch up to 26 feet from the ordinary high-water mark on Magician Lake; and
o A 22.5% variance from the permitted 30% lot coverage in order to allow a 52.5% lot coverage on the 3792 square-foot platted lot. Standards of review for consideration by the Zoning Board of Appeals are contained in Section 155.253 of the Silver Creek Township Zoning Ordinance. The applicant owns an adjacent vacant platted lot which is 1116 square feet in area but is a separate parcel number, legal description and zoning lot so it cannot be counted toward the lot coverage percentage.

· Such other and further matters as may properly come before the zoning board of appeals.

Anyone interested in reviewing the application for the above or the Township Zoning Ordinance may examine a copy of the same at the Silver Creek Township Hall during regular business hours of regular business days hereafter until noon on the date of the hearing and may further examine the same at said public hearing/meeting. The Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible via internet at www.silvercreektwpmi.gov.

Written comments will be received from any interested persons concerning the foregoing by the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

Silver Creek Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
By: Jess Honn, Township Clerk
32764 Dixon St., Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 424-3025, www.silvercreektwpmi.gov

White Space Sells

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Aliyah Baldwin Original Mortgagee: Contour Mortgage Corporation Date of mortgage: May 10, 2024 Recorded on May 16, 2024, Liber 1245, on Page 2496, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty Thousand Twenty-Two and 34/100 Dollars ($140,022.34) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lots 59 and 60 in Lyle Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of plats, Page 58, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 106 Clyborn St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1593468 (05-16)(06-06)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Amanda J. Martin, a married woman, to Greenpoint Credit Corp., Mortgagee, dated May 5, 1999 and recorded May 12, 1999 in Liber 700, Page 79 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 25, 2021, in Liber 1206, Page 514, and Affidavit of Scrivener's Error recorded on September 22, 2020, in Liber 1180, Page 1804, Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of the NRZ Pass-Through Trust XI, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirteen and 0/100 Dollars ($91,913.00).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Jefferson, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
That part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 7 South, Range 15 West, Jefferson Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the South line of said Section 17 a distance of 250.00 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 17; thence North 360.00 feet; thence East 250.00 feet; thence South 360.00 feet to the South line of said Section 17; thence West on said South line 250.00 feet to the point of beginning.
26890 Jefferson Center Rd, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 16, 2026
File No. 26-003877
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-16)(06-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CASS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 (269) 445-4412

FRANK & FRED, LLC
Plaintiff
vs
HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS OF ELLA E. BATCHELOR AND MATTIE CHAPMAN AND THOSE WITH CLAIMS TO REAL ESTATE
Defendants

ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
File No.: 26-000104-CH
HON. MARK A. HERMAN

JOHN R. COLIP (P25250)
BUTZEL LONG
Attorneys for Plaintiff
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

AT A SESSION of said Court at the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, on March 23, 2026

PRESENT: Honorable Mark A. Herman, Trial Court Judge

On Motion of Plaintiff, Frank & Fred, LLC, by and through its attorney, JOHN R. COLIP Esq., of the law firm of BUTZEL LONG, herein and the Court having read the verified Motion for Substituted Service, and being fully advised in the premises:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, That Plaintiff's Motion for Substituted Service be, and it is hereby granted, and that service shall be made upon Defendants, in this matter by: (i) posting a copy of this Order with Attachment "A" in the Courthouse and in two other public places in Ontwa Township for three continuous weeks; and (ii) publishing this Order with Attachment "A" in the Leader, a newspaper published in Cass County, Michigan, for three consecutive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That PCI Services is to post this Oder with Attachment "A" and provide proof of posting in compliance with this Order and file Proof of Posting with this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that mailing a copy of this Order to Unknown Parties, their Heirs and Successors, is not necessary since there is no ascertainable way to determine the address nor the specific identity of those Defendants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attachment "A" is made a part of this Order and will accompany any posting or publication.

Date: March 23, 2026 Honorable Mark A. Herman (P34735)
Cass County 43rd Circuit Court Judge

Prepared by:
John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

ATTACHMENT "A" TO ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

NOTICE OF COMMENCMENT OF ACTION

An action to Quiet Title has been filed in the Cass County Circuit Court, in the State of Michigan. This action is filed by Plaintiff, Frank & Fred, LLC, against Defendants: Heirs and Successors of Ella E. Batchelor and Mattie Chapman and those with Claims to Real Estate, and any other persons or entities claiming any right or title to property located in Ontwa Township, Cass County, Michigan and legally described as:

The West 2 acres of the East 16 acres of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 8 South, Range 15 West, Cass Couty, Michigan

You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in the Cass County Circuit Court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, on or before 28 days from the date of the last publication. If you fail to do so, a Default Judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint filed in this case. You may contact the law offices of BUTZEL LONG, 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100, Niles, MI 49120, 269-591-6915, for any information on this matter.

Prepared By:
John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250)
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING WAYNE TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAYNE, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:
Please take notice that the Wayne Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wayne Township Hall located at 53950 Glenwood Road. The hearing is to consider a Zoning Variance for the property #14-150-153-006-00 of Roy Gantt and Jenni Rafferty located at 52492 Twin Lakeview Dr, Dowagiac, MI 49047. The owners are asking for a second story expansion of a non-conforming garage and a zero-footage side yard setback for the new structure. This is to replace the previous garage that was destroyed in the May 7, 2024 tornado. The ordinance states they may expand up to 50% of a non-conforming structure with proper setbacks, which is a ten-foot side yard.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments concerning the above matter may be mailed to the Wayne Township Clerk, Attention Planning Commission, 53950 Glenwood Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047, at any time prior to this public hearing and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at said public hearing.
All interested persons are invited to be present at the previously mentioned time and place to be heard with respect to this matter.
This notice is served and posted in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended; the Open Meetings Act; MCLA 41.72a(2)(3); the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Wayne Township Zoning Ordinance.
Wayne Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, upon reasonable notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township in writing at: Michelle Smith, Wayne Township Clerk, 53950 Glenwood Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047 or by phone 269-782-7017 or email clerksmith.waynetwp@gmail.com
Michelle Smith, Clerk

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Leona A. Hawkins, not stated, T/B/E, to Beneficial Michigan Inc., Mortgagee, dated March 27, 2006 and recorded March 30, 2006 in Liber 933, Page 964 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2021-R1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2021-R1, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty and 15/100 Dollars ($49,980.15).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Village of Vandalia, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Land situated in the Village of Vandalia, County of Cass, State of Michigan:Lots 16, 17 & 18, Hains Addition to the Village of Vandalia according to the recorded Plat thereof.Excepting therefrom the following described premises in the Village of Vandalia in CassCounty and State of Michigan: Lot Twelve (12), Hains Addition to the Village of Vandalia according to the recorded Plat thereof.Tax Parcel No.: 14-101-200-016-00
17713 South Street, Vandalia, Michigan 49095
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 2, 2026
File No. 24-006519
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-02)(05-23)

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
VARIANCE REQUEST, PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Silver Creek Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing and meeting on June 17, 2026 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047, within the Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said meeting are as follows:

The request of Dave and Patty Bonadona regarding property at 54554 Estates Lane, Eau Claire, MI (Parcel No 14-130-370-017-00), which is located in the "MHP" Manufactured Home Park Zoning District Classification, for variances in order to permit the construction of a 65-foot by 30-foot (1,950 square-foot) all-steel garage building with 12-foot sidewall height and a peak height of 15 feet 10 inches. The property in question is a platted lot approximately 8,012 square-feet in area, which was legally combined with adjacent lot 54532 Estates Lane, Eau Claire, MI (Parcel No. 14-130-370-016-00) on March 14, 2026. The combined lots are approximately 16,025 square-feet in area. The applicant requests the variances to accommodate a garage and garage doors of sufficient size to store a pontoon boat. The applicants specifically request the following variances:
· A 2-foot variance from the maximum 10-foot sidewall height for an accessory building constructed on a property of less than 1 acre, with a 12-foot sidewall height. (Zoning Ordinance Section 3.11(B)(8))
· A 450-square-foot variance from the maximum 1,500 square-foot maximum ground floor area for an accessory building constructed on a property of less than 1 acre, in order to permit the construction of the 1,950 square-foot proposed building. (Zoning Ordinance Section 3.11(B)(3) and (8))

The Zoning Board of Appeals may also consider such other and further matters as may properly come before the Board at the meeting.

Anyone interested in reviewing the application for the above or the Township Zoning Ordinance may examine a copy of the same at the Silver Creek Township Hall during regular business hours of regular business days hereafter until noon on the date of the hearing and may further examine the same at said public hearing/meeting. The Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible via internet at www.silvercreektwpmi.gov.

Written comments will be received from any interested persons concerning the foregoing by the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

Silver Creek Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
By: Jess Honn, Township Clerk
32764 Dixon St., Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 424-3025, www.silvercreektwpmi.gov

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0900 LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S TRUST

Gary L. Owens Revocable Living Trust, u/t/a dated December 28, 2007

The Declarant, Gary L. Owens, who lived in Edwardsburg, Michigan, died July 4, 2025. No Probate estate has been opened for Gary L. Owens. There is no personal representative of a Probate Estate for the decedent to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia A. Owens, successor trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Notice is further given that the trust will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: May 12, 2026

Patricia A. Owens
70525 Sherman Road
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
(754) 339-6426

Jonathan B. Sauer, P19907
Sauer & Sauer, PLC
414 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-0531

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-081-DE
Carol M. Bealor

Court address Court telephone no.
60296 M-62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-4475

Estate of: Paul R. Burns
Date of Birth: * 09/11/1951

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Paul R. Burns, died 08/06/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Heather L. Burns, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/29/2026

Charles S. Ofstein P76256
Attorney name Bar no.
211 E. Water St. Ste 401
Address
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
City, state, zip
(269)343-2106
Telephone no.

Heather L. Burns
Personal representative
67252 Clavin Center Road
Address
Cassopolis, MI 49031
City, state, zip
(574)612-6213
Telephone no.

Storage Unit Auction
28733 Middle Crossing Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Auction-Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 10am

Unit 10- miscellaneous items, household items
Unit 13-miscellaneous household items and clothes
Unit 32-miscellaneous items

PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION
Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St. Niles, MI 49120
May 23, 2026 @ 4:00 pm
Owner's lien - overdue rents

Unit # Name:
#48 Rashida Jackson Misc. household items, patio furniture, dining table/chairs, child's table.

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Cass

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-085-DE

Estate of: Essie Mae Mickens
Date of birth: 12/02/1928

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Essie Mae Mickens died 08/21/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tkendrique Watford, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Nicholas Raymond Hogue P81291
Attorney name Bar no.
107 Pennsylvania Ave
Address
Dowagiac, MI 49047
City, State, Zip
269-782-9895
Telephone no.

Tkendrique Watford
Personal representative
7066 Mobile Street
Address
Theodore, AL 36582
City, state, zip
251.525.5285
Telephone no.

Auction
Where: Automotive Plus 2411 S. 11th St. Niles MI 49120
Phone Number: 269-684-4700
Date of Auction: May 21st
Time of Auction: 10 am

1989 Chevy Corvette
2013 Ford F350

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

Please take notice that on June 1, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. the Board of Education of Niles Community Schools will hold a special board meeting to have a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2026-27 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-27 budget until after the public hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2026-27 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Business Office beginning June 1, 2026.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education

0900 LEGALS

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Unit # Name
9/185 Candy Whitmire
27 Nicolas Sansom
28 Emalee Anderson
50 Lillian Joyce Bennett
60 Roenea Anderson
62 Andrew Dunifin
67 Jerome Jankowiak
77 Brittany Mitchell
82 Ericka Pitone
92 Robert Procopi
95 Bobbie Epps
125/179 Steve Kelley
127/633 Chris Norris
145/467/468 Michael Merritt
148 Gloster Johnson
164 Bradley Hattenback
183 Cindy Fisher
184/66 Mary Anderson
190/306 Linda Nilson
191 Alan Smith
192 Patricia Yoder
223 Derek Baker
273 Tony Pompey
274 Gregory Montgomery
278 Chelsie Carlyle
282 Keely Collier
284 Kathleen Peterson
342 Terrence Moss
346 DaMonica Williams
347 Tyreak Hunter
356 Chase Molica
389 Parnell Jenkins
410/534 Rebecca Coleman
418 Melissa Hocker
427 McCade Reese
429 Aaron Haynes
438 Adrianna Affriso
442 Dawn Hojara
451 Jean Fitch
452 Tyler Mahar
492/676 Malawi Association
526 Keith Hill
530 Justin Landis
533 Ashley Scantlon
545 Candy Whitmire
546 Robin Bontrager
589 Lisa Schay
608 Robert Conner
638 Britney Stanczyk
639 Barry Brann
665 Rodney Prescott
677/567 Julie Potate

Niles U -Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 30, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

35 George Seratt
47/49 Jasmine Collett
54 Cynthia Swisher

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

64 Wendy Jones
107 Bobby Marrow
176 Dacia Bush
227 Jennifer Nichols
238/466 James Diss
263 Tamara Holmes
292 The Woodshed Crafts
314 Tracey Parrish
377 Christy Stevens
380 Leatha Lennox
422 Jeremy Davis
481 Natosha Libertowski

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269-591-0100

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Sturgis, MI 49091

SAM
SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

People Do Read Small Ads. You Did!

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on 6/10/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Adam Charles Roach. Original mortgagee: 1st Source Bank. Date of mortgage: 9/23/2013. Mortgage recorded on 9/27/2013 as Document No. 91938, in Liber 1067, Page 67. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): 1st Source Bank. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $49,619.65 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN AND DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 12 RODS NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWN 5 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, THENCE NORTH 29 RODS; THENCE WEST 13 1/3 RODS, THENCE SOUTH 29 RODS, THENCE EAST 13 1/3 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 53435 Indian Lake Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 05/09/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-26-00265 (05-09)(05-30)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on June 3, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Patrick J. Brodzinski, a single man, as Mortgagor to First Federal Savings Bank, with its address at 301 East Ninth Street, Rochester, IN, 46975-0527 as Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded February 24, 2009, Liber 989, Page 2381, Cass County Records, Cass County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $48,105.42 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the fixed rate of 5% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Milton Township, County of Cass, State of Michigan, described as: LOT 5, DUNNING ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN LIBER 1G of PLATS, PAGE 333. Parcel No. 14-070-300-005-00 Commonly known address: 29154 US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. April 23, 2026 First Federal Savings Bank PLUNKETT COONEY Lisa A. Hall (P70200) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4615 (05-02)(05-30)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Cassandra Miller and Jeffrey Starr Jr Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.("MERS"),solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 5, 2023 Recorded on December 11, 2023, Liber 1240, on Page 1243, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Five and 86/100 Dollars ($120,585.86) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 142 in McOmber`s Third Addition to the Village (now City) of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber W of Deeds, Page 330, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 421 W Railroad St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1593464 (05-16)(06-06)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Chadwick G. Johnson and Katherine R. Johnson, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: August 8, 2017 Recorded on August 9, 2017, Liber 1127, on Page 50, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on November 04, 2024 in Liber 1252, on Page 1960 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Three Hundred Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Nine and 99/100 Dollars ($307,909.99) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot Numbered 10 in Chicago Trail Farms according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1-L of Plats, page 581- Cass County Records. Commonly known as 69265 Sundance Dr, Edwardsburg, MI 49112 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1592780(05-09)(05-30)

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Brandywine, Edwardsburg top 10 in baseball rankings

PMG STAFF

Brandywine and Edwardsburg remain ranked in the top 10 of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association poll this week. The Bobcats (21-2-1) are ranked No. 6 in Division 3 for the second week in a row while the Eddies (20-4) are No. 8 in Division 2. Niles (19-7) is currently ranked No. 17 in Division 2.

Here are the rankings by division:

Division 1

1. BB Rice (22-8-2)
2. Romeo (21-6)
3. Woodhaven (24-3)
4. Rochester Adams (19-5)
5. Bay City Western (21-4)
6. Detroit Catholic Central (20-10)
7. Oxford (22-5)
8. Mattawan (20-6-2)
9. Hudsonville (20-5-1)
10. Midland Dow (21-6-1)
11. Rockford (20-6)
12. Hartland (15-8)
13. Howell (18-7-1)
14. Saline (21-8)
15. Novi (20-6)
16. Jenison (22-6)
17. Dexter (20-8)
18. Allen Park (17-5)
19. West Ottawa (18-8)
20. Troy (16-8)

Photo courtesy of Tanya Hagen

Brandywine and Edwardsburg remain ranked in the top 10 of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association poll this week.

Division 2

1. Orchard Lake St. Mary's (21-5)
2. New Boston Huron (23-3)
3. East Grand Rapids (17-2)
4. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (25-3)
5. Dearborn Divine Child (22-2)
6. Richmond (21-1)
7. Williamston (18-4)
8. Edwardsburg (20-4)
9. Saginaw Swan Valley (25-4)
10. Spring Lake (17-5)
11. Standish-Sterling (20-3)
12. Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills (19-2)
13. Ada Forest Hills Eastern (23-5)
14. Parma Western (19-3)
15. Garden City (23-5)
16. Freeland (21-6)
17. Niles (19-7)
18. Hopkins (18-7)
19. Grand Rapids Catholic Central (15-10)
20. Lake Odessa Lakewood (15-6)

Division 3

1. Traverse City St. Francis (19-2)
2. Brooklyn Columbia Central (21-3)
3. Lansing Catholic Central (15-2)
4. Detroit Edison (14-7)
5. Jackson Lumen Christi (20-7)
6. Niles Brandywine (21-2-1)
7. Grosse Pointe University Liggett (17-9)
8. Grass Lake (18-6-1)
9. Saginaw Valley Lutheran (14-5)
10. Elkton Pigeon Bayport (20-6)
11. Whiteford (15-3)
12. Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central (12-5)
13. Ravenna (16-2)
14. Reese (20-4)
15. Plymouth Christian Academy (15-6)
16. New Haven (13-3)
17. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (15-3)
18. Watervliet (16-6)
19. Kalamazoo Christian (17-6)
20. Springport (18-5)

Division 4

1. Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (24-2)
2. Portland St. Patrick (17-1)
3. Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Central (17-3)
4. Beal City (18-7)
5. Petersburg-Summerfield (9-5)
6. Royal Oak Shrine (17-5)
7. Fulton (16-6)
8. Fowler (15-4)
9. Breckenridge (17-5)
10. Vermontville-Maple Valley (13-3)
11. Rogers City (16-2)
12. Harbor Springs-Harbor Light (17-5)
13. Indian-River Inland Lakes (11-5)
14. Adrian Lenawee Christian (12-2)
15. Frankfort (13-5)
16. Muskegon Catholic Central (14-3)
17. Byron Center-Zion Christian (13-5)
18. Wakefield-Marenisco (9-2)
19. Capac (14-4)
20. Grand Rapids Sacred Heart (9-0)

Michigan WRs have chance to be 'special'

By ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS
The Detroit News (TNS)

DETROIT — Last season, it was evident there was some talent among Michigan's receivers, particularly freshman Andrew Marsh. And while he was the highlight, that wasn't enough as the Wolverines broke in freshman starting quarterback Bryce Underwood.

Michigan finished 105th in passing last season, averaging 186.8 yards a game. Marsh led the team with 45 catches for 651 yards and four touchdowns and set program freshman records against Northwestern with 12 receptions for 189 yards. He was All-Big Ten honorable mention. Donaven McCulley, an Indiana transfer, was second in receiving with 39 catches for 588 yards and three touchdowns and has moved on to the NFL.

Kyle Whittingham is in his first season as Michigan head coach after spending the last 21 at Utah, and he brought with him receivers coach Micah Simon, who spent the 2025 season coaching the Utes. Simon, who was with the staff in Detroit last month for a meet-and-greet with Detroit high school football coaches, said the receiver room is preparing to take a big step this fall.

Marsh anchors the group, which added from the transfer portal, JJ Buchanan, who had a successful freshman season at Utah last season with 26 catches for 427 yards and five touchdowns, freshman Salesi Moa, who had briefly enrolled with the Utes before moving to Michigan after the coaching change, and Texas transfer Jaime Ffrench. Kendrick Bell is back at Michigan, as is Jamar Browder, Channing Goodwin, and then there are freshmen Travis Johnson and Jaylen Pile.

"We have a chance to be pretty special," Simon told The Detroit News.

"Obviously, led by Andrew Marsh, who had a phenomenal freshman season, and I'm excited to see what he does in Year 2 and the jump that he makes in his game and his development. And then Salesi Moa, who we were able to get in the portal, and then JJ Buchanan, who had a phenomenal freshman year for us. He was not an early enrollee, so he showed up in the summer and learned and then played Game 1. So excited for his jump as well this year.

"Jaime Ffrench transferred from Texas and expecting big things from him. Channing Goodwin played a lot here, Kendrick Bell has played a lot here, so there are a lot of guys who played a lot of football, and at the same time, we do have a lot of young players, so it's all about having them jell together and jell with the quarterback and continue to move forward. I'm super excited for this room. It's a great room to have for my first year."

Marsh, who started eight games last season, is the centerpiece of the receivers room, and his growth this sophomore season will be critical.

"He definitely has a great starting spot," Simon said. "He is so talented. He does things that are very natural to him. One of his

best attributes is his ball skills and control, so it's obviously about continuing to build on that. And then it's just the small things that make a player like that even better, just practice habits and learning to be unguardable and uncoverable and never losing a rep, always finding a way to be available for the quarterback."

Simon said developing the receivers is all about football IQ, toughness and having strong field vision. But it's also about letting them lean into their strengths without hindering it.

"Especially in our offense, we give the guys a playground for them to work and get open," Simon said. "Everything's not super rigid, so they're able to work within their own game. I call it, 'What's your superpower?' And you use that superpower to your advantage. His is obviously his ball skills, but (Marsh's) IQ is actually really high as well."

Moa made a spectacular one-handed catch in the spring game, and there are great expectations for the 6-foot-2 early-enrollee freshman.

"He's going to be a special player," Smith said. "He's a kid who's been that way since Little League, and that's why he played both ways in high school, and at some point, he probably will play both ways in college. He's focusing on receiver right now, so I'll try to be as selfish as possible, as long as I can, and hold him in the receiver room."

The Wolverines' projected top big-body receiver is Buchanan, who is 6-3, 225 pounds, but there are options. Browder is 6-5, 215 and Bell is 6-2, 205, and Simon said not to sleep on any of them.

"It'll be awesome to mix and match different receiver groups out there," Simon said. "We can go all big, or we can go a little smaller, more speed at one time with, like a Ffrench, a Moa and a Johnson. I'm excited for the group, fair to say."

During spring practice, the offensive players said there is more explosiveness in offensive coordinator Jason Beck's scheme. Simon said everything he saw in the spring suggests this could be a big-play offense.

"For us, as we find our identity of the offense, it is all about what's the best way to score points," Simon said. "To score points and win games, you need to be explosive. Last year we did have probably some of the longest drives where we're still scoring points, but, man, a 15-play drives is long. We definitely want to be explosive in the run game and the pass game, and score quick when we can, but also still play complementary football with our defense."

Simon is from Dallas and played receiver at BYU from 2015-2019. He started coaching as an offensive analyst in 2022 at Syracuse, then coached at Northern Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah each of the last three years. The transition to Michigan, he said, has been seamless. Whittingham was hired last December after the firing of Sherrone Moore, and with the exceptions of running backs coach Tony Alford and special teams coordinator Kerry Coombs, who had been on the previous staff – Coombs was hired in December and coached the bowl game – the Wolverines' staff is entering its first season here.

"Michigan and the city of Ann Arbor, nothing but love for us, welcoming us with open arms," Simon said. "The people have been amazing. The fans have been awesome, and it was awesome seeing them at the spring game. Really looking forward to the season. Can't wait for September."

John T. Greilick / The Detroit News / TNS

Michigan wide receivers coach Micah Simon, wearing No. 10 jersey, coaches during the Maize vs. Blue Spring Football Game at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor on April 18.

HUNTING

From page B5

"The culture in Michigan, whether we like it or not, is 'did I get my buck?'" he said Wednesday. "They want to go back to the shop and say they got their buck."

One-buck rule will help decrease herd sizes

The one buck rule's impact on the herd won't be immediate, but "as hunters adapted to the restriction and increased their antlerless harvest, greater changes would be anticipated over time," the Michigan DNR's recommendation to the NRC states.

Rules for hunting in the Upper Peninsula will remain the same. Hunters will be allowed to take either one buck of any size, or buy a combination license that will allow them to take a buck with at least three antler points and a second with at least four points.

Natural Resources Commission members on Wednesday passed an amendment requiring the DNR to launch a pilot study of an "earn a second buck" program in some southern Michigan counties. In the program, hunters would have to harvest an antlerless deer in order to buy a license for a second antlered deer, Rudolph said.

Thorman told commissioners he supported that pilot program.

DNR eliminates limited firearms dear zone

Starting this year, hunters in southern Michigan will also have more options for firearms they can use to hunt. Commissioners eliminated the limited firearms deer zone, which had roughly included the portion of the state south of US-10 where some firearms were not allowed because the population is denser than in northern Michigan.

Hunters in the limited firearms deer zones previously were limited to shotguns, muzzleloading rifles, black powder handguns, certain conventional handguns and certain rifles. Now, more firearms, including .30-30 rifles, will be allowed.

The change reduces confusion for hunters unsure which type of firearm they're allowed to use in the zone and, hopefully, will lead to more people hunting and killing antlerless deer, officials said.

Commissioners also passed a resolution put forward by Brandon Fewins, of Traverse City, recommending the DNR to work with the Wildlife Management Institute to conduct a science-based review of the state's deer management program and develop an updated deer management framework that includes recommendations for hunting rules, disease management and handling deer-caused damage.

Deer management is "one of the most contentious issues we deal with as a commission," Fewins said, and should be done by region because of different climates, habitats, diseases, and preferences of hunters. He said having clear, numerical benchmarks and goals will improve transparency and make it easier for the public and commissioners to assess whether hunting regulations are protecting the herd.

Decline in hunting causes DNR budget woes

Hunting license sales have declined in Michigan since the mid-1990s, and the average age of hunters is rising, DNR data show.

That has caused a funding crisis, as funding for the department responsible for protecting and managing Michigan's natural resources relies heavily on hunting and fishing license sales.

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